

NEWS RELEASE: Sept. 18, 2009

### **CERT training offered for disaster preparedness**

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management is offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training courses in Springfield during October and November.

The CERT program trains regular people in basic disaster prevention and response skills, like fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, animal response, terrorism awareness and disaster medical operations. Classes culminate in a disaster simulation exercise.

CERT training is recommended for anyone involved in groups like service clubs, faith communities, neighborhood organizations, schools or even the workplace. An annual refresher course is required to retain certification.

“While the Office of Emergency Management prepares for everyday emergencies and disasters, a large-scale event could limit the availability of immediate assistance,” said Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. “CERT training provides decision-making, organizational and practical skills needed to safely assist families, neighbors and coworkers until professional help arrives.”

Four seven-week CERT training courses are offered for October and November. Course availability includes:

Tuesdays, Oct. 6 through Nov. 17, 8 a.m. to noon  
Tuesdays, Oct. 6 through Nov. 17, 1 to 5 p.m.  
Thursdays, Oct. 8 through Nov. 19, 8 a.m. to noon  
Thursdays, Oct. 8 through Nov. 19, 1 to 5 p.m.

All classes are held at the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, 833 Boonville Ave., Springfield. CERT training is free, but pre-registration is required. Each course is limited to 40 participants.

A class flyer is attached to this e-mail. For more information about CERT visit the CERT home page at [www.citizen corps.gov/cert/](http://www.citizen corps.gov/cert/).

For more information about classes or to register, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040.

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